

of hydrogen cyanide into the building. There were upwards of 100 patients who were all struck with varying respiratory ailments. Some were severe, and some were fatal.

Engine 15 was dispatched to what was seemingly a routine medical local. When members arrived, they encountered a mass casualty incident and immediately called for a HazMat Task Force. Units responded with military personnel to establish rescue, triage and transport operations.

Working under a unified command model, Fire and EMS personnel staged decontamination operations and provided emergency medical care and transport for scores of patients.

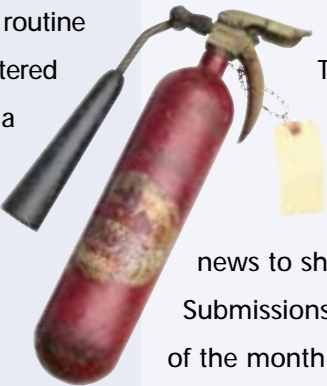
Other DCFEMS

Engine 33 and Truck 8, along with the group Working Men Who Care, sponsored Family Day in the Valley August 23. It was an opportunity for the community to come into the firehouse and meet their first responders. Many community members and government leaders enjoyed music, food and games for the children! Nice job to everyone involved!

Congratulations to Rose Boardley of Supply Services and Dennis Rich, Fleet Maintenance, on their August 8 marriage.

Communications Division (CD) technical director Wendell Giggy passed away on July 31. Mr. Giggy was appointed to CD in November 1988 and was 61 years old. A memorial service was held on August 18 at Arlington National

Cemetery. Retired Firefighter/Technician Glenn C. Stewart passed away on August 1. Firefighter Stewart was appointed in August 1954 at E-7 and retired from E-10 June 1977. Retired Inspector William B. Tompkins passed away August 13. Retired Inspector Tompkins was appointed January 1, 1973.



Please e-mail your births, deaths, retirements, marriages or other personal news to share to gwendolyn.smith@dc.gov

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Chief Adrian Thompson announces the arrest of a suspect in a July 23 fire at the Marina View Towers, 1000 6th Street, SW. Chief Thompson credited fire investigators and the quick work of the arson task force assembled to investigate similar fires.



The District of Columbia Fire/EMS Department

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★★★

Adrian H. Thompson,
Fire/EMS Chief

Anthony A. Williams, Mayor

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From the Fire/EMS Chief:

New EMS Staffing Plan Goes Into Effect

We are again moving forward in an aggressive campaign to lower response times and improve services to our citizens. A pilot program will examine how pairing a paramedic with an EMT on an ALS unit will work.

We are studying this concept for 180 days, and at the end of that period, I will determine whether the program should be extended beyond the six units currently under examination. Many departments across the country have used the "1-plus-1" staffing configuration successfully. By taking these steps, it is my belief that we will be able to respond more effectively to the large volume of calls we face every day and, at the same time, maximize our paramedic resources.

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In the long-term, it is my goal to establish a single-tier, all ALS system, with paramedics or firefighter/paramedics on every transport unit — and a firefighter/paramedic on every first responding fire unit. The sooner we deliver a paramedic to the scene of a medical emergency, the better the outcome for the patient.

As always, thank you for your continued support and fine work.

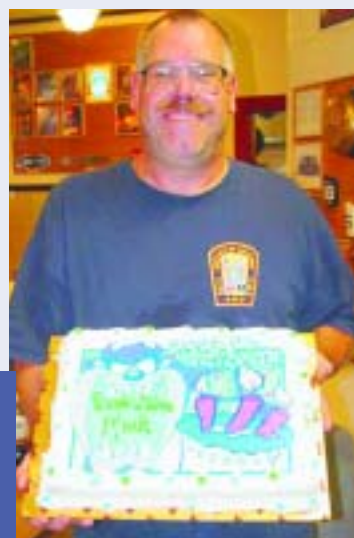


Training

Firefighting Recruit Class No. 332 will graduate on September 12 at 11:00 am at Gallaudet University's Elstad Auditorium, 800 Florida Avenue, NE. The 21 recruits training consisted of seven weeks of EMS training and 16 weeks of firefighting training.

Diversity

DCFEMS hosted an event featuring the Rainbow History Project on August 20 at the Training Academy. The Rainbow History Project gave a presentation focusing on the relationship of public safety agencies with Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) community members in the



Paramedic Mark Chapman retired this month after 26 years of service. A celebration luncheon was held August 1 at Engine 16.

context of a local history. It included a discussion of the Cinema Follies fire of October 1977 and its effect on local clubs. The event was free and open to the public.

Firefighting

Deputy Fire Chief Drumming Retires

Deputy Fire Chief Charles Drumming retired on August 22, 2003. Chief Drumming was appointed May 18, 1969. He was promoted to sergeant in 1983 to T-11, served in both firefighting and in an administrative capacity in each rank (T-11, E-12, RS-2, T-3, Battalion 6 and Battalion 5) until promoted to Deputy Fire Chief. Administrative positions include: Residency Compliance Officer, Hearings Officer, Administrative Officer Training Academy, Medical Services Officer, Director, Research and Development, Risk Management Director and Fire Marshal.



Deputy Fire Chief Charles Drumming retired on August 22, after 34 years of service.

Chief Drumming has earned a M.A. degree in Public Administration, B.S., degree in Fire Science Administration, Cum Laude, and an A.A.S degree in Fire Science.

Chief Drumming plans to play golf and tennis, read and enjoy his retirement.

Fire Prevention

The DCFEMS Department, along with the DC Department of Parks and Recreation, hosted the first annual Fire Safety Olympics, a program of physical activities that centers around the importance of learning fire safety.

Approximately 60 children at Fort Lincoln and Ridge Road Recreations Centers competed in events like "Running Gear Race", where the kids, dressed in firefighter protective gear,



FPD educator Aleazor Taylor lines up competitors in the first annual Fire Safety Olympics August 12.

ran a foot race. They also tested their coordination skills in the "Bucket Brigade."

"It is important that fire safety skills be taught at a young age," said Chief Thompson. "This is a great way for these children to have fun and learn some important things."

DC FEMS 4-1-1

Special Operations Coordinates Chemical Warfare Drill

A drill conducted by DCFEMS Special Operations on August 7, utilizing local and federal resources, examined what this service's response would be in the event of a weapons of mass destruction event.

The drill, which was held on the campus of St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Southeast Washington, presented first responders with an ominous scenario. During a protest at a hazardous waste facility involving environmental activists, someone, presumably one of the activists, caused a chain of events that resulted in the introduction



...continued on back



Firefighters encounter a "worst case scenario" during a Special Operations Drill August 7.